



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

JANE SWIFT
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM D. O'LEARY
SECRETARY

HOWARD K. KOH, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

May 4, 2001

Dear Local Health Official:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (BEHA) and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDF&W), are sending the enclosed final set of guidance materials concerning the new beaver law (M.G.L. c. 131, s.80A), to help local health officials who are now, or may be in the future, dealing with beaver related issues. MDPH and MDF&W formed a committee composed of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA), the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) and together developed the additional enclosed guidance and technical support information and the MDPH beaver guidance, which was included in a packet we sent to local health officials on February 14, 2001. This committee has worked to develop additional guidance for the appeals process and model forms that have been approved by the MDPH legal office to assist local health officials and applicants in understanding and implementing the new law and the MDPH appeals process.

Within this packet you will find:

- ?? "Massachusetts Department of Public Health Appeals Process for M.G.L. c.131, s.80A"
- ?? "Beaver Law Flow Chart," which can be used by health officers and applicants as a visual aid.
- ?? "Beaver or Muskrat Complaint Data Sheet," which can be used by health officers to record information from telephone calls or office or site visits.
- ?? "Application for 10-Day Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit," which can be used by applicants seeking an emergency permit.
- ?? "Beaver or Muskrat Consent Form," which can be used by the applicants to get permission to access private property.

- ?? "10-Day Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit," which can be used by health officers to issue permits.
- ?? "Notice of Denial of Emergency Permit under M.G.L. c131, s.80A," which can be used by health officers to deny applicants a permit.
- ?? "10-Day Additional Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit," which can be used by health officers to issue additional permits.
- ?? "Application for 30-Day Extension Permit, " which should be used by permit holders to apply for an extension permit from MDF&W.
- ?? "30-Day Beaver or Muskrat Extension Permit," which will be used by MDF&W to issue extension permits.
- ?? "Beaver Workshop Flyer," which explains the two beaver workshops.

MDPH and MHOA, along with the coordinating committee, are sponsoring two beaver workshops for boards of health and health agents aimed at implementation of new regulations relative to foothold traps. The first will be held in Tewksbury on May 17, 2001 at Tewksbury State Hospital, and the second will be held in Lenox on May 23rd. An announcement for these workshops is included with this mailing.

If you have any questions prior to the workshops, please feel free to contact MDPH's Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at (617) 624-5757.

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner, MDPH

David M. Peters,
Commissioner, DFW